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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 4

ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Note by the Secretariat

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

Addendum

C. Expansion of productive employment

21. In expanding productive employment, the long-term goal should be full, productive and freely chosen employment.

22. It should be recognized that expansion of employment is not the same as reduction of unemployment, particularly in view of a growing labour-force in many countries. Consideration may therefore need to be given to specific measures for reducing unemployment.

23. While programmes for expanding productive employment are undertaken primarily at the local and national levels, they depend on a favourable international environment, including access to international trade and capital markets, fair prices for commodities, technology transfer and debt relief.

24. Economic reform and structural adjustment programmes must take into account employment objectives.

25. Particular attention must be given to the least developed countries. The programme of action should take into account the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa, presented by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development.

26. The specific problems of countries in transition must also be addressed.

27. The programme of action should include mechanisms for exchange of national experience in job creation and on other employment issues.

1. Ensuring that economic growth creates jobs

Establishing a sound macroeconomic environment;

Improving the legislative and institutional framework for job creation;

Encouraging sound industrial relations practices;

Using fiscal policy to encourage job creation;

Reducing disincentives to hiring new workers, including unnecessary regulations.

2. Improving patterns of investment and economic activity

Improving access to international markets;

Encouraging private sector investment;

Promoting local savings and investment;

Promoting labour-intensive technologies and technologies that conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

3. Promoting small and medium-sized enterprises

Providing support services for small and medium-sized enterprises, including management training;

Encouraging and facilitating self-employment and entrepreneurship;

Promoting cooperatives;

Promoting artisanal industry.

4. Improving the quality of the workforce

Improving health care and nutrition;

Improving basic employment literacy;

Developing effective education and training programmes, including vocational training;

Adapting education and training to productive employment opportunities and to new technologies;

Developing and improving retraining programmes;

Involving private enterprise in education and training programmes.

5. Improving labour markets

Improving labour market information;

Strengthening employment services and job counselling;

Combining labour flexibility and worker mobility with economic security.

6. Promoting employment opportunities and advancement for women

Ensuring equality of opportunity in employment;

Improving access of women and girls to education and training;

Improving access of women to productive assets, particularly credit.

7. Improving employment opportunities for vulnerable groups

Reintegrating the long-term unemployed in the labour market;

Increasing employment opportunities and overcoming labour market disadvantages of young people;

Ensuring continuing employment opportunities for the elderly;

Targeting regions of concentrated unemployment.

8. Enhancing employment in the rural and informal sectors

Improving access to assets, including land, credit, technology, and markets;

Constructing and maintaining infrastructure, particularly in rural areas;

Improving employment and working conditions in the informal sector;

Improving overall living and employment conditions in rural areas, in part to reduce rural-urban migration.

9. Protecting the rights of workers

Ensuring implementation of international conventions, including the freedom of association, the right to organize and collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equal remuneration, and the elimination of discrimination in employment;

Improving employment security for workers in precarious, short-term and part-time jobs;

Eliminating abuses of child labour.

10. Strengthening dialogue between Governments, employers and workers

Strengthening workers and employers organizations;

Encouraging social partners to jointly address social issues relating to employment.

11. Integrating migrants into labour markets

12. Reducing mass unemployment

Establishing national unemployment thresholds for emergency programmes.

13. Pursuing new approaches to work and employment

Developing options for flexible voluntary working arrangement, such as job-sharing, work-sharing and flexible working hours;

Creating socially useful jobs such as services for the elderly, environmental protection and housing rehabilitation, possibly supported with fiscal incentives.

D. Enhancing social integration

1. Integration through shared values (see draft declaration)

2. Promoting equality of opportunity

Access to the institutions of society; ensuring justice and the rule of law;

Access to information and to knowledge;

Access to credit and property.

3. Counteracting social exclusion

There should be a universal recognition of the unacceptability of social exclusion;

The task must be to identify and remove the barriers to social integration;

There is a need to strengthen community structures and networks.

4. Bringing government closer to the people; new systems of governance

Empowering people is a central conceptual framework for social integration; an "agenda for people" is required;

Decentralization;

Open, accessible and accountable institutions.

5. Supporting and encouraging the organizations of civil society

Promoting community organizations and action;

Encouraging the role and contributions of non-governmental organizations, particularly to define, develop and implement programmes at the grass roots;

Recognizing the role of the private sector in providing social services;

Recognizing the important role of the media in transmitting information and forming values, effective and free institutions are required. At the same time, concern must be expressed about and attention given to its potential for disseminating "anti-values".

6. Providing for human needs: investing in people

Ensuring access to education and information for all by improving and ensuring the quality and relevance of education and the training of teachers, eliminating discrimination in provision of education, and ensuring that education reflects basic shared values, such as tolerance and peace;

Ensuring access to health.

7. Gender equity and the empowerment of women

The status of women in a society is a measure of its development;

There is need to empower women within families, communities and societies;

Women should be ensured full participation at all levels of decision-making;

There is a special need to ensure that women have access to productive resources such as credit and property;

Targeting incentives to enhance the economic role of women;

The multiplier effect of "investments in women".

8. Recognizing and supporting the family

Families provide basic stability, social cohesion and a bridge between the individual and the community;

Families are vital for transmitting on cultural and social values.

9. Treatment of minorities

Ethnic, religious, racial minorities;

Indigenous peoples;

Migrants;

Refugees;

Foreigners.

28. The fundamental shared values must apply equally to all members of society, and services should be provided on an equal basis to all members of society.

10. Empowering the marginalized and securing the advancement of people with special needs

People with disabilities;

Youth;

The elderly;

Children - survivability, protection and development;

"The permanently excluded", including the homeless, alcoholics, drug abusers, etc.

29. There is a need to identify better the groups which are marginalized and to establish structures to integrate them.

11. Special situation of certain countries

Least developed countries;

Africa;

Countries in transition;

Countries suffering from war and civil strife - their need for policies of rehabilitation and reconciliation and for international cooperation;

Countries affected by natural disaster.

12. Implementation

30. It is important to recognize the body of existing international conventions, treaties, agreements, declarations and programmes of action in the area of social development and social integration. The first task should be to seek wider ratification and better implementation of these existing instruments.

31. Policies should seek to empower all groups and individuals in society. Policies and programmes should strive to be cost-effective and efficient, concentrating on improving social returns. It is essential to identify and ensure the provision of adequate resources. The social impact of international development assistance and, specifically, of policies for structural adjustment, should be taken into greater consideration. Social policy should strive to integrate the marginalized individuals and groups and not merely maintain them in their marginal situations. Planning strategies should adopt a bottom-up approach.

32. There is general consensus on the need to define a framework for social integration. Social development is a dynamic, continuous process which should not be constricted by status definitions.

E. Implementation and follow-up; role of the United Nations system and financial institutions

33. In addition to the policy options addressed to Governments and other national institutions and the identification of priorities for international cooperative action, the draft programme of action should contain more specific recommendations for concrete actions by the various bodies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions. These elements should respond to the General Assembly objective to make recommendations

regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development - in particular, measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development.

34. The United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, should give higher priority to social development, and consideration should be given to reallocating resources to social development activities within the United Nations system. Clear targets should be set for social development activities, and consideration should be given to ways to increase the resources available for those activities.

35. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of social development should be people-centred and should give priority to the needs of the poor.

36. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of social development should concentrate on supporting national and local efforts, including those of civil society. Consideration should be given to the preparation of studies and data in support of national decision-making.

37. Consideration should be given to enhancing the capacity of the United Nations system better to assist States in addressing their social problems, with emphasis on strengthening existing institutions and programmes rather than creating new bodies.

38. United Nations institutions and programmes should be made more coherent, efficient and effective.

39. The draft programme should include measures for improving the coordination of social development activities within the United Nations system, with particular attention to coordinating the activities of the international financial institutions with those of the rest of the system.

40. Consideration should be given to mechanisms to improve the coordination of the United Nations system with other international, regional and national organizations, including the regional development banks, in the field of social development.

41. The draft programme of action should include mechanisms for international monitoring of its implementation.

42. The draft programme should take into account existing agreements and commitments, including the results of and preparations for other United Nations conferences and events, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Year of the Family, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Agenda for Peace and the Agenda for Development should also be taken into account.

43. The draft programme should take into account the various social development activities within the United Nations system and should consider how the various agencies can best contribute to the implementation of the programme of action.

Particular attention should be paid to the crucial role of the ILO and the Bretton Woods institutions.

44. Consideration should be given to means for taking social needs and social costs into account in the design and implementation of economic reform and structural adjustment programmes.

45. Consideration should be given to achieving a better balance between the resources of the United Nations available for peace-keeping and the resources available for social development.

46. The draft programme should consider how the Economic and Social Council could improve its role in the coordination and oversight of United Nations economic and social activities, how it could further develop the concept of human security, and how it could cooperate more closely with the Security Council.

47. Consideration should be given to expanding the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe to include matters of social policy and social development.

48. The organizations of the United Nations system should be encouraged actively to participate in the preparatory process and to follow-up to the Summit.